

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OF WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA.

BY STEPHEN SARGENT VISHER.

THE list is based upon the following sources of information: (1) The birds observed while sent out by the Geological and Natural History Survey of South Dakota to the Black Hills (August 1 to 24, 1908) and to the Bad Lands (August 24 to September 18). The northern half of the Hills were thoroughly studied; and an area forty miles by thirty miles, having its southwestern third in the badlands, extending from the White River near Interior east to Kadoka, and north to Cottonwood, on the C. N. W. R. R., was gone over. Several years spent in eastern South Dakota and an extensive western trip, has given the author a familiarity with these birds that makes the observations, I hope, reliable.

(2) Upon the list of the birds collected in 1857 and 1860 in what is now South Dakota by H. V. Hayden (late director of the U. S. Geological Survey) while on the Warren Expedition.

(3) Upon the list of the birds collected by G. B. Grinnell, Zoölogist to the Custer Expedition in 1874. He entered the Hills from the north July 20, continued south to the south central part (Harney Peak), swung east and north, leaving at the north corner (Bear Butte) August 16.

(4) H. E. Lee, now of Pierre, has done much good work, particularly upon the water birds of Bryant County, in the north-eastern part of the State.

(5) E. H. Sweet of Vermillion, South Dakota, spent from June, 1907, to September, 1908, on a claim just north of the Bad Lands in southwestern Stanley County, and observed in the area between the White River and the N. W. R. R. line, and between Interior and Kadoka. He did a little collecting. Sweet was my kind host during the time I spent in this area.

(6) Henry Behrens, of Rapid City, has for several years collected about Rapid, which lies in the eastern foot-hills. Most of his collection was gathered near his ranch in Spring Creek Valley, eight miles south of Rapid; all within twenty miles of Rapid City. His collection consists of about three hundred and fifty mounted

birds, representing one hundred and fifty species. Few records of abundance or of breeding have been kept.

LIST.

1. *Colymbus nigricollis californicus*. EARED GREBE.—Taken by Behrens. The most common grebe (Behrens).
2. *Colymbus auritus*. HORNED GREBE.—Two taken by Behrens. Rare.
3. *Podilymbus podiceps*. PIED-BILLED GREBE.—Two taken by Behrens. Rare.
4. *Gavia immer*. LOON.—One taken by Behrens.
5. *Larus delawarensis*. RING-BILLED GULL.—Taken by Grinnell on Little Missouri River; also by Behrens.
6. *Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*. BLACK TERN.* — Common summer resident.¹
7. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN.—Taken by Behrens. Migrant.
8. *Mergus americanus*. AMERICAN MERGANSER.* — Found nesting on Castle Creek (Grinnell).
9. *Lophodytes cucullatus*. HOODED MERGANSER.* — One taken in July by Sweet.
10. *Anas platyrhynchos*. MALLARD.* — Abundant migrant.
11. *Chaulelasmus streperus*. GADWALL.—Taken by Behrens.
12. *Mareca americana*. BALDPATE.—Nesting abundantly on Heart River (Grinnell). Taken by Behrens in May and June.
13. *Nettion carolinensis*. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—Abundant migrant, as early as Sept. 1.
14. *Querquedula discors*. BLUE-WINGED TEAL.* — Breeds. These two are the dominant ducks.
15. *Spatula clypeata*. SHOVELER.* — Abundant migrant in southwest Stanley County.
16. *Dafila acuta*. PINTAIL.* — Abundant migrant.
17. *Marila vallisneria*. CANVAS-BACK.* — Reported common on White River in fall.
18. *Marila affinis*. LESSER SCAUP DUCK.—Two taken by Behrens.
19. *Clangula clangula americana*. AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.—Taken by Behrens once; May 4, 1902.
20. *Charitonetta albeola*. BUFFLE-HEAD.—Two taken by Behrens.
21. *Erismatura jamaicensis*. RUDDY DUCK.* — Common migrant; probably breeds.
22. *Chen hyperborea nivalis*. GREATER SNOW GOOSE.—Two taken by Behrens.

¹ An asterisk indicates the species represented in Behrens's collection.

23. *Branta canadensis*. CANADA GOOSE.—Abundant on Little Missouri River (Grinnell). Rare migrant (Sweet).
24. *Branta hutchinsi*. HUTCHINS GOOSE.—Rare migrant (Sweet).
25. *Botaurus lentiginosus*. AMERICAN BITTERN.*—Common summer resident (Sweet).
26. *Ardea herodias*. GREAT BLUE HERON.*—A few breed (Grinnell). Rare fall migrant (Sweet).
27. *Butorides virescens*. GREEN HERON.—A rare fall migrant on White River (Sweet).
28. *Rallus virginianus*. VIRGINIA RAIL.—One, Heart River (Grinnell).
29. *Porzana carolina*. SORA RAIL.—Four taken (Behrens).
30. *Fulica americana*. COOT.*—Abundant breeder in the few suitable localities.
31. *Phalaropus fulicarius*. RED PHALAROPE.—One taken, May 27, 1904, by Behrens.
32. *Lobipes lobatus*. NORTHERN PHALAROPE.*—Taken by Grinnell on Missouri River.
33. *Steganopus tricolor*. WILSON PHALAROPE.—Common migrant in southwest Stanley County.
34. *Recurvirostra americana*. AVOCET.—Occasional on Missouri River (Grinnell). One taken October 16, 1902, on Ranch; one September 5, 1903, on Box Elder Creek (Behrens).
35. *Gallinago delicata*. WILSON SNIPE.—Common migrant (Sweet). Probably breeds (Behrens).
36. *Micropalama himantopus*. STILT SANDPIPER.—Common migrant. Six taken by Behrens.
37. *Pisobia maculata*. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—Abundant migrant.
38. *Pisobia bairdi*. BAIRD SANDPIPER.—Common migrant in southwest Stanley County.
39. *Pisobia minutilla*. LEAST SANDPIPER.*—Common migrant in southwest Stanley County.
40. *Limosa fedoa*. MARBLED GODWIT.—Two taken by Behrens.
41. *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*. WESTERN WILLET.—Probably breeds; taken (Behrens).
42. *Totanus flavipes*. LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.—Common migrant.
43. *Helodramas solitarius*. SOLITARY SANDPIPER.—Abundant migrant and breeder.
44. *Heteractitis incanus*. WANDERING TATLER.—One female taken by Behrens on his Ranch, June 1, 1901. "Very Rare."
45. *Bartramia longicauda*. BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER.*—Common breeder on the plains.
46. *Actitis macularia*. SPOTTED SANDPIPER.*—Abundant breeder, in Hills as well as plains.
47. *Numenius longirostris*. LONG-BILLED CURLEW.*—Tolerably common breeder in wilder parts of plains country.
48. *Oxyechus vociferus*. KILLDEER.*—Abundant breeder in badlands.

49. *Colinus virginianus*. BOB-WHITE.*—Breeds near Rapid City. Very rare visitant (Sweet).
50. *Dendragapus obscurus*. DUSKY GROUSE.—Tolerably common in central part of the Hills (Hayden).
51. *Bonasa umbellus umbelloides*. GRAY RUFFED GROUSE.—Female taken. One brood seen in the Hills.
52. *Tympanuchus americanus*. PRAIRIE HEN.—Reported occasionally as far west as Kadoka.
53. *Pediceetes phasianellus campestris*. PRAIRIE SHARP-TAILED GROUSE.—Abundant resident on plains.
54. *Centrocercus urophasianus*. SAGE GROUSE.*—Very locally distributed; resident.
55. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*. MOURNING DOVE.*—Common breeder. In autumn, when it flocks, it is very conspicuous.
56. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*. TURKEY VULTURE.*—Tolerably common about the Hills. Abundant in badlands.
57. *Circus hudsonius*. MARSH HAWK.*—Most abundant hawk outside of the Hills proper. Resident.
58. *Astur atricapillus*. GOSHAWK.—Four taken by Behrens.
59. *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—A pair, probably of these birds, was seen in badlands.
60. *Buteo borealis calurus*. WESTERN RED-TAILED HAWK.*—Tolerably common breeder.
61. *Buteo borealis kreideri*. KREIDER HAWK.—Rare; only one seen.
62. *Buteo lineatus*. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK.—Two taken by Behrens.
63. *Buteo swainsoni*. SWAINSON HAWK.*—Abundant in fall on plains. Breeds (Sweet).
64. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*. AMERICAN ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.*—Rare.
65. *Archibuteo ferrugineus*. FERRUGINOUS HAWK.*—Abundant resident in winter (Sweet).
66. *Aquila chrysaetos*. GOLDEN EAGLE.*—A resident in the badlands (Sweet). Seen in the Hills.
67. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. BALD EAGLE.*—Rare, resident in badlands (Sweet).
68. *Falco mexicanus*. PRAIRIE FALCON.—Abundant in badlands. Breeds. Three pairs taken by Behrens.
69. *Falco peregrinus anatum*. DUCK HAWK.—Six taken by Behrens. One seen on Bear Butte, near Sturgis.
70. *Falco columbarius*. PIGEON HAWK.—Rare autumn migrant. Four pairs taken by Behrens.
71. *Falco columbarius richardsoni*. RICHARDSON MERLIN.—Five taken by Behrens. Seen in southwest Stanley County.
72. *Falco sparverius*. SPARROW HAWK.*—Very abundant summer resident.

73. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*. OSPREY.—One seen in September on the White River; one taken by Behrens.

74. *Asio wilsonianus*. AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL.—A tolerably common breeder, in the cedars in the badlands, and in the Hills. Four pairs taken by Behrens.

75. *Asio flammeus*. SHORT-EARED OWL.*—Common breeder on the plains. Rare resident (Sweet).

76. *Otus asio*. SCREECH OWL.—Taken frequently by Behrens.

77. *Bubo virginianus pallescens*. WESTERN HORNED OWL.—Taken in winter by Sweet. Nine taken by Behrens.

78. *Nyctea nyctea*. SNOWY OWL.—Taken by Behrens in the winter.

79. *Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa*. BURROWING OWL.—Abundant on plains in prairie dog towns.

80. *Coccyzus americanus*. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.—Five taken by Behrens.

81. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO.—Seen on White River (Sweet). Taken on Bad River by Hayden in 1857.

82. *Ceryle alcyon*. KINGFISHER.*—A common breeder.

83. *Dryobates villosus*. HAIRY WOODPECKER.*—Breeds; probably resident in Hills.

84. *Dryobates pubescens nelsoni*. NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Three taken in the Hills (Grinnell). Rare resident (Sweet).

85. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.*—Most abundant woodpecker, taking the area as a whole.

86. *Asyndesmus lewisi*. LEWIS WOODPECKER.—Very abundant breeder in central wilder part of the Hills; uncommon elsewhere. In flight it resembles a small crow. This woodpecker is very proficient as a flycatcher.

87. *Colaptes auratus luteus*. NORTHERN FLICKER.*—Tolerably common breeder (Sweet).

88. *Colaptes cafer collaris*. RED-SHAFTED WOODPECKER.—Abundant in the Hills.

The most abundant woodpecker along the White River seems to be a hybrid between these Flickers.

89. *Phalænoptilus nuttalli*. NUTTALL POORWILL.—Heard in June in the badlands (Sweet). Taken in the Black Hills by Hayden.

90. *Chordeiles virginianus henryi*. WESTERN NIGHTHAWK.*—Abundant breeder on the plains.

91. *Chaëtura pelagica*. CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Reported by Grinnell from the Hills.

92. *Aëronautus melanoleucus*. WHITE-THROATED SWIFT.—Abundant breeder about the higher buttes in the badlands.

93. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. KINGBIRD.*—Abundant breeder, except in the central Hills.

94. *Tyrannus verticallis*. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD.*—Abundant summer resident on the plains.

95. *Sayornis phoebe*. PHOEBE.— Male taken by Behrens on his ranch, May 26, 1904.
96. *Sayornis saya*. SAY PHOEBE.* — Abundant summer resident on the plains, especially in the badlands.
97. *Myiochanes richardsoni*. WESTERN WOOD PEWEE.— Most common flycatcher in the Hills.
98. *Empidonax virescens*. GREEN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER.— One male taken by Behrens.
99. *Empidonax trailli*. TRAILL FLYCATCHER.— "One male taken" (Behrens).
100. *Otocoris alpestris leucolæma*. DESERT HORNED LARK.*— Abundant resident.
101. *Pica pica hudsonia*. MAGPIE.*— Numerous wherever there are trees, except in higher parts of the Hills. Resident.
102. *Cyanocitta cristata*. BLUE JAY.— Rare summer resident on White River as far west as southwest Stanley County.
103. *Perisoreus canadensis*. CANADA JAY.— Tolerably common in Hills. Pair taken (Behrens).
104. *Corvus corax sinuatus*. AMERICAN RAVEN.— Common (Grinnell). Taken at Fort Pierre (Hayden).
105. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. AMERICAN CROW.— Tolerably common. Resident.
106. *Nucifraga columbiana*. CLARK NUTCRACKER.— Taken by Hayden in the Hills. (Sweet saw one of these birds in the fall of 1903 in Hutchins County, southeast part of the State.)
107. *Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*. PIÑON JAY.*— Abundant breeder about Rapid City; not seen elsewhere.
108. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. BOBOLINK.*— Common summer resident in the Red Valley east of the Hills proper. Rare along the White River (Sweet).
109. *Molothrus ater*. COWBIRD.— Abundant summer resident except in the higher Hills.
110. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*.— YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.* — Common breeder.
111. *Agelaius phoeniceus*. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD.*— Common summer resident.
112. *Sturnella magna*. MEADOWLARK.— Occasional on White River (Sweet).
113. *Sturnella neglecta*. WESTERN MEADOWLARK.* — Abundant on prairies and plains.
114. *Icterus spurius*. ORCHARD ORIOLE.— Common along the White River in summer (Sweet).
115. *Icterus galbula*. BALTIMORE ORIOLE.— Same as preceding species. Rare breeder (Behrens).
116. *Icterus bullocki*. BULLOCK ORIOLE.— Taken at north end of the Hills by Grinnell; at Fort Pierre by Hayden, 1857. One seen at Rapid City, August 1. Five taken by Behrens June 14, 1899, etc.

117. *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. BREWER BLACKBIRD.*— Abundant breeder.
118. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus*. BRONZED GRACKLE.*— Common breeder in the Hills. Rare migrant in southwest Stanley County (Sweet).
119. *Hesperiphona vespertina*. EVENING GROSBILL.*— Taken by Townsend in 1824. Three taken by Behrens, January 1, 1905.
120. *Loxia curvirostra minor*. AMERICAN CROSSBILL.*— Common breeder about Rapid City; feeding largely upon the aphid galls on the petioles of the leaves of the cottonwood.
121. *Leucosticte tephrocotis*. GRAY-CROWNED LEUCOSTICTE.*— Tolerably common in winter. Taken by Behrens Nov. 10, 1900.
122. *Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*. HOARY REDPOLL.*— Taken by Behrens.
123. *Acanthis linaria*. AMERICAN REDPOLL.*— Taken: abundant in fall (Behrens).
124. *Astragalinus tristis*. GOLDFINCH.*— Tolerably common breeder.
125. *Spinus pinus*. PINE SISKIN.*— Two large flocks seen in the pines in the Hills.
126. *Plectrophenax nivalis*. SNOWFLAKE.*— Common in winter (Sweet).
127. *Calcarius lapponicus*. LAPLAND LONGSPUR.*— Abundant in winter (Sweet).
128. *Calcarius pictus*. SMITH LONGSPUR.*— Common in summer in southwest Stanley County.
129. *Calcarius ornatus*. CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR.*— Abundant breeder on plains; rare resident.
130. *Rhynchophanes mccowni*. MCCOWN LONGSPUR.*— Breeds near Whitewood. Common in winter (Sweet).
131. *Poæcetes gramineus confinis*. WESTERN VESPER SPARROW.*— Black Hills (Hayden). Abundant in fall.
132. *Coturniculus bairdi*. BAIRD SPARROW.*— Taken by Behrens, Sept. 1, 1900. Rare.
133. *Coturniculus savannarum bimaculatus*. WESTERN GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.*— Occasional, nesting on prairies about the Hills; common breeder in southwest Stanley County.
134. *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*. WESTERN LARK SPARROW.*— Common breeder.
135. *Zonotrichia querula*. HARRIS SPARROW.*— Common migrant (Sweet).
136. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.*— Black Hills (Hayden).
137. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.*— White River (Hayden).
138. *Spizella monticola ochracea*. WESTERN TREE SPARROW.*— Common migrant (Sweet).
139. *Spizella passerina arizonæ*. WESTERN CHIPPING SPARROW.*— Tolerably common in summer.

140. *Spizella pallida*. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.— Abundant in the Hills. Breeds.
141. *Spizella breweri*. BREWER SPARROW.— Male taken by Behrens, July, 1899. Rare.
142. *Junco hyemalis*. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.— A pair taken by Behrens. Common migrant (Sweet).
143. *Junco aikeni*. WHITE-WINGED JUNCO.* — Abundant breeder in center of the Hills. Taken by Hayden.
144. *Junco phænotus caniceps*. GRAY-HEADED JUNCO.— Taken by Hayden and by Behrens. Seen in August, in the northern part of the Hills (Custer Peak).
145. *Melospiza melodia*. SONG SPARROW.* — Tolerably common breeder about the Hills.
146. *Melospiza georgiana*. SWAMP SPARROW.— Male taken by Behrens, June 14, 1899. Rare.
147. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. TOWHEE.— Once seen in summer. (Sweet).
148. *Pipilo maculatus*. ARCTIC TOWHEE.— Abundant breeder in cañons of the Hills.
149. *Zamelodia melanocephala*. BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK.— One seen August 1 near Rapid. Taken by Hayden in the Bijou Hills east of the Missouri River. June and July (Behrens).
150. *Guiraca cærulea lazula*. WESTERN BLUE GROSBEAK.— Taken August, 1899, and September 2, 1900. Breeds (Behrens).
151. *Passerina cyanea*. INDIGO BUNTING.— Nests occasionally in the Hills (two broods August 4 near Blackhawk).
152. *Passerina amoena*. LAZULI BUNTING.* — Breeds near Fort Pierre (Hayden). Seen in Sanborn County (eastern part of State).
153. *Spiza americana*. DICKCISSEL.* — Tolerably common, breeder, along White River.
154. *Calamospiza melanocorys*. LARK BUNTING.— Common breeder.
155. *Piranga ludoviciana*. LOUISIANA TANAGER.* — Abundant breeder in the Hills.
156. *Progne subis*. PURPLE MARTIN.— Common in the Hills.
157. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. CLIFF SWALLOW.* — Common breeder.
158. *Hirundo erythrogastra*. BARN SWALLOW.* — Common breeder.
159. *Tachycineta thalassina lepida*. VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW.* — Tolerably common nester in the Hills.
160. *Riparia riparia*. BANK SWALLOW.— Tolerably common summer resident.
161. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW.* — Rare summer visitor.
162. *Bombycilla garrula*. BOHEMIAN WAXWING.— Taken by Behrens, January to February, 1899. "The only winter when it was seen."
163. *Bombycilla cedrorum*. CEDAR WAXWING.— Common on the Missouri River (Grinnell).

164. *Lanius borealis*. NORTHERN SHRIKE.*— Common winter visitor (Sweet).

165. *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*. WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKE.*— Abundant breeder in cottonwoods.

166. *Vireosylva gilva swainsoni*. WESTERN WARBLING VIREO.— Taken on Bear Butte (Grinnell). Nests frequently in Rapid City.

167. *Lanivireo solitarius plumbeus*. PLUMBEOUS VIREO.— Common at Harney Peak (Grinnell).

168. *Dendroica æstiva*. YELLOW WARBLER.*— Nests commonly about the Hills.

169. *Dendroica auduboni*. AUDUBON WARBLER.*— Seen frequently in the Hills; probably nests. Common spring migrant along White River (Sweet).

170. *Dendroica striata*. BLACK-POLL WARBLER.— Pair taken by Behrens.

171. *Geothlypis tolmiei*. MACGILLIVRAY WARBLER.— Taken by Hayden in the Hills. Occurs locally in low boggy woods in the higher Hills. A common nester. A migrant in Stanley County.

172. *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*. WESTERN YELLOW-THROAT.*— Common breeder.

173. *Icteria virens longicauda*. LONG-TAILED CHAT.*— Taken at mouth of White River and at Fort Pierre (Hayden). Seen in badlands in September.

174. *Setophaga ruticilla*. AMERICAN REDSTART.— Common breeder on White River (Sweet).

175. *Anthus pensilvanicus*. AMERICAN PIPIT.— Taken in the Black Hills in 1857 by Hayden.

176. *Anthus spraguei*. SPRAGUE PIPIT.— Common in summer (Sweet).

177. *Cinclus mexicanus unicolor*. AMERICAN DIPPER.— Two or three seen on each large mountain torrent.

178. *Oroscoptes montanus*. SAGE THRASHER.— Taken by Behrens, Nov. 12, 1900. Rare.

179. *Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*. WESTERN MOCKINGBIRD.— Taken by Hayden in 1860 in the Hills.

180. *Dumetella carolinensis*. CATBIRD.*— Rare in summer at Rapid; common in southwest Stanley County.

181. *Toxostoma rufum*. BROWN THRASHER.*— A common breeder along White River.

182. *Salpinctes obsoletus*. ROCK WREN.*— A very abundant and conspicuous breeder, on hog-backs of the rim of the Hills, and in the badlands, where it nests in crevices. The badland form is very pale in color.

183. *Thryomanes bewicki*. BEWICK WREN.— Taken by Behrens, August 1, 1899.

184. *Troglodytes ædon parkmani*. WESTERN HOUSE WREN.— Common breeder along White River in Stanley County.

185. *Sitta carolinensis aculeata*. SLENDER-BILLED NUTHATCH.*— Common breeder in the Hills.

186. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BELLIED NUTHATCH.— A common resident in the Hills.

187. *Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis*. LONG-TAILED CHICKADEE.* — Abundant breeder.

188. *Myadestes townsendi*. TOWNSEND SOLITAIRE.— Taken by Hayden; abundant breeder about Custer Peak; young seen.

189. *Hylocichla mustelina*. WOOD THRUSH.— Common breeder at Fort Pierre (Hayden).

190. *Hylocichla aliciae*. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH.— Black Hills, 1857 (Hayden).

191. *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH.— Rare migrant (Sweet).

192. *Merula migratoria*. ROBIN.*— Rare summer visitant, except in a few foot-hill towns.

193. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.— Nests at Rapid City. Common in summer (Sweet).

194. *Sialia currucoides*. MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD.*— Very abundant (Grinnell). Only a few seen, in the Hills.

BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

It is never very pleasant to admit mistakes that one has made, however pardonable they may appear. If the fact of their commission can be established only by elaborate argument, backed by evidence not perhaps wholly conclusive, the necessity for confession is doubly hard to face. Yet it is to precisely such a task as this that I now find myself committed. I came near undertaking it as far back as 1880 but I was not then prepared to discuss the matter effectively and it was afterwards forgotten. Now that it has again been brought to my attention I shall deal with it as briefly as possible.

Many years ago I reported in the 'American Naturalist' ¹ that "an adult female" Golden-eye "pronounced by Prof. Baird" to be "unquestionably *B. Icelandica*" had come into my possession "in the flesh from Cape Cod, December 7th, 1871" and that during

¹ Vol. VI, No. 5, May, 1872, pp. 306, 307.